



Rub Out the Words: The Letters of William S. Burroughs 1959-1974

William S. Burroughs

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William S. Burroughs was one of the twentieth century's most iconoclastic literary and artistic figures, an inimitable writer whose groundbreaking work in novels such as *Junky* and *Naked Lunch* forever altered the shape of American culture. Now, in this long anticipated collection, editor Bill Morgan takes readers through Burroughs' correspondence from the early sixties through the mid-seventies, in more than three hundred letters that document Burroughs' steady drift away from the Beat circle and that witness an era in which he became the center of a new coterie of creative people who would establish his reputation as an influential artistic and cultural leader beyond the literary world, toward multimedia.

Written to recipients such as Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, Jack Kerouac, Timothy Leary, and Burroughs' son, Billy Burroughs Jr., these letters shed new light on the writer's controversial artistic process and literary experimentation, as well as his complex personal life. Here are letters to new friends in North Africa and Europe—partners in Burroughs' expatriate life—including Paul Bowles, Ian Sommerville, Michael Portman, Alex Trocchi, and the surrealist artist Brion Gysin, who became a close confidant and whose “cut-up method” would deeply influence Burroughs' writing.

An intimate glimpse into the private life of an often misunderstood artist, *Rub Out the Words* is also an unforgettable portrait of one of the twentieth century's most uncompromising literary personalities.

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